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the ground removed, but the process of destruction was carried on in extensive excavations. Had it not been for the havoc wrought during these ten years, the present condition of the Forum would be as different as possible, and very considerable remains of at least ten buildings would still be standing.

This is not the place to enter into any discussion of the topographical questions involved in the account of the excavations, but attention may be called in passing to the convincing evidence accumulated by Lanciani that the *Vivarium* was close to the *castra Prætoria* and not near the *porta Prænestina*. The author is to be congratulated again upon both the form and the matter of this notable work.

S. B. PLATNER.

*The Life and Letters of the Great Earl of Cork.* By DOROTHEA TOWNSHEND. (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company; London: Duckworth and Company. 1904. Pp. xvi, 531.)

THIS volume is a real contribution to the history of Ireland not so much on the political as on the economic side. Richard Boyle, an English adventurer of the type of Raleigh and Drake, sought his fortune in Ireland as Raleigh sought his in America. In that country of misrule and revolt he found both honor and fortune, and was known by his contemporaries as the Great Earl of Cork, as though the adjective were a rightful part of his title.

For the present work Miss Townshend has had an abundance of material. The Great Earl of Cork was the ancestor of the Duke of Devonshire, the Earl of Cork and Orrery, the Earl of Shannon, Lord Barrymore, Lord Digby, and the Duke of Leinster; and in these families have been preserved the letters and papers from which this history has been drawn. The most valuable papers are in the possession of the Duke of Devonshire, who descends from the earl's eldest son; they are preserved at Lismore Castle. These papers were edited by Dr. Grosart and privately printed in ten volumes — five containing the Great Earl's diary and five containing letters to him from his family and friends, with some of his replies. From these volumes Miss Townshend has drawn the greater part of her material; but she has supplemented it from autobiographies of the earl's children and from other family papers, from county histories, and from Caulfield's city council books.

The work throws some additional light on Irish political history under Queen Elizabeth and the first two Stuarts. Court intrigues and enmities between the servants of the queen and her successors, as related here, help to an understanding of both home and foreign politics; but all such matters are treated only incidentally. Miss Townshend's endeavor has been to create a living personality in the earl, and to give just as much of his environment and as much about his contemporaries as is necessary to this end. Many of the pages are taken up with what from the point of view of the political student must be considered trivialities

—courtships and marriages in the earl's family ; visits. ceremonial and friendly ; debts and difficulties of his sons and sons-in-law ; family bills ; and presents and their cost. We learn also about the education of the earl's sons and wards ; their journeys to London and their presentation at court ; their occasional illnesses, and even the physicking they endured. In short, we have a very full and detailed picture of life in the families of the wealthy at the close of the sixteenth and the opening of the seventeenth century ; and the student of social conditions will here gather much that is useful to him.

It is, however, to the student of economic conditions in Ireland that the book will appeal most strongly. The Great Earl found his fortune in the province of Munster. Little by little he became the greatest land-owner in that part of Ireland ; and he found the land a land of plenty and by no means the poverty-stricken, distressful country we are apt to consider it. The rivers were rich in fish and pearls ; the mountains in silver, copper, and iron ore and in timber, good for ship-building and for barrel staves. We are told that Richard Boyle was paid £4,600 for bar-iron exported to Amsterdam in 1623, and for silver mines leased in 1631 he received a rent in kind consisting of a fair basin and ewer, four dozen large silver plates, and eight great candlesticks. The earl also introduced tobacco culture into Ireland and set up glass and woolen works in his town of Youghal. In Youghal and also in his other three towns of Lismore, Bandon Bridge, and Clonakilty, which all owed their existence as towns to him, he settled English families ; and it was English not Irish industry which made this part of Ireland for a while so busy and prosperous. The Great Earl was no better than his times in his attitude toward the native and Catholic Irish ; but it is hard to decide whether it was for economic or religious reasons that he so rigorously excluded Catholics from his town demesnes. For many reasons the *Life of the Great Earl of Cork* is valuable as a contribution to Irish history of the period of the English plantation of Ireland.

A. G. PORRITT.

*England in the Mediterranean : a Study of the Rise and Influence of British Power within the Straits, 1603-1713.* By JULIAN S. CORBETT. (London, New York, and Bombay : Longmans, Green, and Company. 1904. Two vols., pp. ix, 342 ; ii, 351.)

THE author of this book belongs to the imperialistic school of historians, who write history with a tendency, and history with a tendency is not history, but a sermon based upon historic facts in the nature of things falsely apprehended. For Mr. Corbett sea-power is the supreme fact, and sea-power in the Mediterranean is the supremest of all facts. Consequently in his opinion England should have endeavored to be a Mediterranean power long before she became one. As a corollary, all English politicians who regarded the Mediterranean as a fit field for English action were great statesmen ; all who did not so regard it were